

Claims

- [1] 1. A method for inhibition of tumorigenesis in an individual suffering from or at risk for a tumor type that expresses $\alpha 6 \beta 4$ integrin, comprising the steps of administering to the individual a therapeutic agent effective to reduce the amount of active $\alpha 6 \beta 4$ integrin at least in a portion of the individual where tumorigenesis may occur by targeting the beta 4 portion of the integrin.
- [2] 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the individual is human.
- [3] 3. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the therapeutic agent is an antibody.
- [4] 4. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the therapeutic agent is an antisense oligonucleotide.
- [5] 5. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the therapeutic agent is an RNAi species.
- [6] 6. The method of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the individual is suffering from or at risk for a tumor type selected from the group consisting of thyroid, breast, prostate and cervical cancers, cancer of the upper gastrointestinal tract and squamous carcinoma of the skin
- [7] 7. The method of any of claims 1 to 6, further comprising the step of administering to the individual an inhibitor of a receptor protein tyrosine kinase such as ErbB2, EGF-R, Met and Ron.
- [8] 8. Use of an inhibitor of $\alpha 6 \beta 4$ integrin that targets beta 4 in the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for inhibition of tumorigenesis.
- [9] 9. Use of claim 8, wherein wherein the therapeutic agent is an antibody.
- [10] 10. Use of claim 8, wherein the therapeutic agent is an antisense oligonucleotide.
- [11] 11. Use of claim 8, wherein the therapeutic agent is an RNAi species.
- [12] 12. Use of any of claims 8 to 11, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is suitable for human administration.